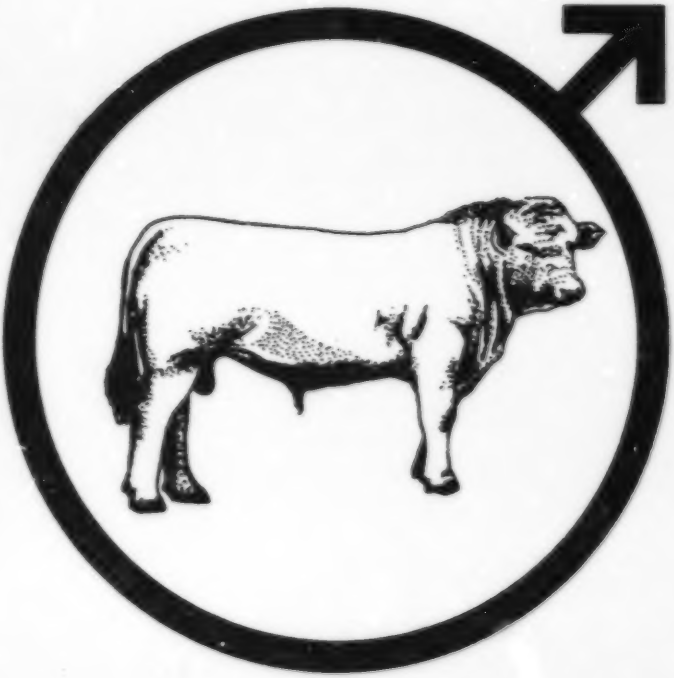
Nova Scotia
Department of
Agriculture and Marketing

The Story of A.I. in Nova Scotia



By
Charlie Douglas & W. D. Murray

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CO-OPERATIVES SECTION
N. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
AND MARKETING

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FOREWORD

Wise and dedicated people make a strong industry. This booklet is primarily of people with forsight and vision who through leadership and vision, helped bring the dairy industry in Nova Scotia to the largest and probably most profitable sector of the agricultural economy today.

Starting in 1941, with *the first artificially bred cow in Canada*, this story traces the growth and development of Artificial Insemination in Nova Scotia along with the organizations and people who developed this important component of the livestock industry.

We are grateful to Charlie Douglas and Bill Murray who recorded and brought this story to us.

Fred J. Pierce

FRED PIERCE
INSPECTOR OF
CO-OPERATIVES

CHAPTER 1

THE EARLY YEARS

Yarmouth County pioneered the Artificial Insemination industry in Nova Scotia and in all of Canada as well, when after many meetings and much thought during the winter of 1940-41, farmers decided to organize a unit in the spring of 1941.

The first cow inseminated was a Jersey owned by Bob Throp of Hebron, Nova Scotia. John Jenson was the technician, and had moved to Nova Scotia from Denmark. He had no special training but studied literature obtained from his home country and from H. S. Churchill, Ag. Rep., Dr. E. E. I. Hancock, Provincial Veterinarian, Truro; J. A. Steele and W. D. Davis, Canada Department of Agriculture. Mr. Jenson kept the bulls at his farm where he processed the fresh semen as well.

Murray Crosby was the first President of the Unit, while others who followed included Leonard Baker, Earl Maberley and Loran Sweeney. The membership fee was twenty-five cents.

Total Services for the year were 659.

The unit continued to serve the area until the Provincial Unit was organized and in 1951, the bulls (Jersey and Guernsey breeds) were moved to Truro and semen was

purchased from the Nova Scotia Artificial Breeders' Club until June of 1970. At this time, the amalgamation of all sub-units occurred under the Central Unit at Truro. A group of breeders from all three Provinces and Department of Agriculture officials had gathered earlier at an Artificial Insemination.

In January, 1945, the Truro Unit formed with Walter Dickie as President; C. A. Langille, Vice-President; and Howard Roper, Secretary. Other Committee members included Walter Brenton, Leo Lebon, Don Hamilton, W. R. Retson and J. S. Steele. Wally Stead was engaged as operator. (Service fee was $5.00). Several of these men invested a substantial sum in the business but the unit continued to experience financial problems. Guernsey and Holstein bulls were housed at the unit at Lower Truro known as the Crowe property. Four hundred and seventy-nine (479) cows were bred the first year with fairly good results.

In 1946, a new well was drilled, adding to operation costs. Also, two new men were hired, with Harold Rogers and Doug Dickie replacing Mr. Stead.

Many meetings were held throughout the years and efforts were made to obtain financial assistance from the Provincial Department of Agriculture. Don Hamilton was elected

President in 1947 and Walter Brenton as Vice-President. The Department of Agriculture was interested in establishing a Provincial Artificial Insemination Unit and granted assistance of seventy-five cents per first service.

The Purchasing Department of the Canada Department of Agriculture had been providing bulls for the unit and the Directors decided to obtain bulls from British Columbia as a blood line, from Colony Farms. This move appeared to cause concern among the breeders, especially the Pure Bred farmers, who felt the breeding standards were too low compared to the preferred bulls from Ontario. This concern resulted in slow growth in services.

In 1948, Walter Brenton became President and C. A. Langille, Vice-President. Other prominent names mentioned were the following: George Porter, Dr. Stan Curtis, Herb McCharles, Rollie Nason, Doug Curtis and Archie Davidson.

The Provincial Unit was formed in March, 1949. A Provincial Government grant of $4,000 per year was established. (C. A. Langille, President, George Porter, Vice-President). After several futile attempts by Howard Roper to resign as Secretary, Dr. Curtis replaced him. James McNeil of the Marketing Service A. B. Banks and Dr. E. E. I. Hancock became prominent in the new organization. Mr. McNeil felt strongly

about the formation of some form of cattle selling agency. Dr. Hancok continued to advise and assist in an effort to improve conception which had not proved as satisfactory as desired.

Aylesford and Windsor areas, where some Artificial Breeding was being carried out, became interested as well as Sydney and Yarmouth areas. The two former joined the Provincial Unit, but transportation of raw semen to such places as Sydney and Yarmouth proved difficult.

Shorthorn bulls were added to the unit. In the same year, Bill Joyce became an employee. Later that year, Tom Smith assumed the duties of Secretary when Dr. Curtis moved from Truro.

By January of 1950, 11 bulls were housed at the unit, but Guernsey breeders were very critical of the calibre of the bulls, as a result, a club was formed which purchased a bull for the unit.

By 1951 business was expanding, Tom Smith was appointed Treasurer and Dr. MacKay, Secretary. The problem of poor conception continued to plague the organization. The difficulty was due partly to inadequate transportation facilities.

In October of 1951, Don Cameron began a career as inseminator for the Truro Unit and continued after the amalgamation of the unit in 1970 with the Nova Scotia Artificial Breeders' Co-operative. Don has probably bred more cows than any other individual in Canada.

March of 1952 saw plans finalized to erect a new bull barn complete with adjoining modern laboratory facilities. A busy summer followed and in the fall, Canada's Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable James Gardiner officiated at the opening ceremonies of the new complex.

Financial stability remained a difficult goal with the Treasurer receiving 10 cents mileage for his extensive travel and an honorarium totalling $125 per year. The Unit could finally, to some extent, recognize the efforts of its men.

Shorthorn breeder, W. A. Flemming appealed to the Unit to establish a cattle sales agency for the province. James McNeil supported this move since he felt government funding to this project would prove worthwhile.

Howard Roper was hired to organize and promote sales while the County Federation of Agriculture sponsored the project. Local groups soon took responsibility for feeder sales organized in Bridgewater, Lawrencetown, Windsor and Truro areas with the exception of Truro,

which operated under the original Unit for many years. More than 2500 head of cattle were sold during fall feeder sales. Mr. Roper's wide livestock knowledge of both dairy and beef has undoubtedly left its mark on the cattle industry of Nova Scotia.

In 1975, the Fancy & Langille firm assumed the position as auditors, an office still retained today.

In 1955, Robert Windeler of Hamilton Cattle Breeders, Ontario, was hired to manage the unit. Mr. Windeler proved versatile in not only managing and caring for the bulls, but in the semen processing area as well.

In 1956, John Clarke became lab technician while Wally Stead assumed herdsman responsibilities and Tom Isenor served as office manager.

Mr. Windeler organized new provincial sub-units during the next five years. Ayrshire and Hereford bulls were introduced in the unit while the purchase of bulls from British Columbia, Ontario and Nova Scotia was discontinued.

The purchase of a frozen semen holding tank using alcohol and dry ice aided those breeders who wished to use semen from special bulls. This method proved both successful but expensive. The Department's yearly grant rose to $6,000 by 1959.

President Don Hamilton, Doug Curtis and C. A. Langille comprised a Board of Management to handle business between Board of Management to handle business between Board of Directors' Meetings. Other members were the following: T. C. MacDonnell, Alfred Scothorn, Raymond Longley and Avery Duncanson.

The breeding fee was set at $5 per first service, with two free return services if necessary. Of this amount, $1.50 was returned to the Central Unit per first service. However, some units had difficulty meeting their obligations and the returns varied, dropping as low as 25 cents. The service fee was also increased in some units, reaching as high as $8 in the Sydney area.

Directors' and General Meetings were noted for their rather stormy sessions. The quality of some bulls and semen as well as Mr. Windeler's performance met with disapproval, some members of the Valley sub-units were especially displeased.

Rosafe Citation R., a six week old calf, was offered at the Sale of Stars at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto in November, 1958. Prior to the sale Cy. Sherwood, Ed. Haliburton and Eugene Cullen, Ministers of Agriculture for the three Maritime Provinces, assembled and decided to bid on the bull up to a price of $21,000. Bill Bennett, Director of Livestock for New Brunswick was

contacted the next morning. He was asked to bid and offer up to a price of $27,000. The unitss remained ignorant as to the Ministers' plans. The bull purportedly had a Red Factor guarantee since many breeders disapproved of red and white pigmentation in bulls, favouring instead black and white coloring.

Bennett's bid reached $30,000 matching five Ontario units' bid. Three other units joined the Ontario Units and Citation R. becamn an Ontario bull. Citarion R, however, did possess the Red Factor and was later sold to Mexico for a purported $10,000 fee.

Citation R., however, proved to be an outstanding individual and his semen was brought back to Canada and sold for high prices. Citation R. also produced outstanding offspring. His bloodline was sought by many breeders and making Citation R. an unprecedented success in the bull division.

SUB-UNITS IN NOVA SCOTIA

Nova Scotia sub-units included the following:

Annapolis County
Eastern Co-op, Antigonish
Scotsburn Co-op, Pictou
Truro
H.C.H.
Avon East
Avon West
Lunenburg
Bayview Cumberland
Pugwash
Kings County
Yarmouth
South Inverness
Central Inverness
North Inverness
Baddeck
Sydney
Richmond

HAPTER 2

HE 1960's - THE DEVELOPING STORY

On December 14, 1959, a well attended meeting was eld in Truro with Dr. J. C. Rennie, Department of nimal Husbandry, Guelph, distinguishing the gathering nd delivered an excellent discourse concerning the need for sire proving and type classification of daughters. Heated discussion resulted concerning the quality of Holstein bulls used with regard to the new herdmate comparison.

Directors were elected during the meeting while W. D. Murray was elected President and Chairman of the Board of Management. Other members included Alfred Scothorn-Vice-President, Don Hamilton, Herb Fiddes, T. C. Mac Donnell, Avery Duncanson, Raymond Longley and Dr. Stan Curtis, Director of Livestock Services.

The staff was comprised of John Clarke, Lab. Technician; Wally Stead, herdsman; Tom Isenor, secretary; Howard Roper, sire analyst and cattle sales; Ivan Graham, relief technician for the Province; and Bob Windler, manager.

The bull stud consisted of 6 Holstein, 5 Ayrshire, 5 Guernsey, 3 Jersey, 5 Shorthorn and 3 Hereford bulls.

The Guernsey breeders were very dissatisfied with the service on imported semen from the United States and

demanded action. A meeting was held prior to Christmas 1959.

In January, financial difficulties, including an overdraft, plagued the unit and unpaid bills mounted, including a sizeable account with Ontario Association Animal Breeders where the units credit faced cancellation.

No funds existed for catalogues, newsletters, advertising or travelling and the 28,000 services reported at the Annual Meeting in reality amounted to less than 24,000 in number.

Late in January, Dr. Curtis, C. A. Douglas, Robert Newcombe, Raymond Longley and W. D. Murray visited units in New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Ithaca, New York to study their operations.

Bob Windler's resignation was accepted at a semi-annual meeting in May while C. A. Douglas was appointed Provisional Manager and a promotional committee consisting of Tom Smith, T. C. MacConnell and W. D. Murray was selected to review the unit's operation and recommend a future Artificial Insemination Program.

Board Meetings were held frequently but due to the units financial position, the $5 stipend per meeting was discontinued.

Promising applicants desiring the position of the new manager could not be interviewed since the unit's financial position did not warrant a new appointment.

Study committees visited New Brunswick seeking ways to improve the program by co-operative means.

Three sub-units, including Kings County, Truro Breeders and H.C.H., volunteered to provide funds to purchase a highly rated Holstein bull for sale in Ontario for the Unit, but by the time arrangements were completed, the bull had been sold to other interests for a substantial price. Kings County was the only unit which actually contributed money to the Truro unit, donating $1,500 at the suggestion of Robert Newcombe, President of Valley Breeders. The money was later refunded to the original funding interests.

Dr. Waldo Walsh and Dr. Stan Curtis of the Department of Agriculture, awarded a cheque to the unit enabling the reestablishment of a good credit rating.

The Promotional Committee's report at the Annual Meeting included the following recommendations:
(a) That steps be taken to establish all sub-units on a uniform basis of semen payment and that accounts owing be paid.

(b) That management Committee make plans to equip each sub-unit to handle frozen semen, making it possible to complete special matings using frozen semen from selected bulls in Canada and the United States.
(c) That semen be frozen from some of the units' bulls which were becoming popular.

It was believed that a completely frozen program served the unit's best interests, but due to finances and certain irregularities which still remained questionable at the time, a move could not be justified. More government involvement was necessary to complete the plan. Mr. Smith's and Mr. MacConnell's support with regard to this decision proved invaluable.

1961

Following the Committee's recommendation, much time was spent in organizing a frozen semen program. Dr. Curtis was largely responsible for procuring funds from the Department to purchase the necessary equipment and the Board agreed to proceed in this direction.

Liquid nitrogen operations used to replace the dry ice and alcohol method had been witnessed during the unit's travels and had proved a successful alternative. Two suppliers contacted quoted the price of $1.60 per litre for nitrogen. After lengthy negotiations, a contract with Canadian Liquid Air at 40 cents per litre was finalized

A large holding tank was ordered for the Central Unit which provided refrigerator semen tanks for each technician in the field, which held from 250 to approximately 600 vials of semen. These tanks were in use in Ontario and at American Breeders' Service and held from 10 to 35 litres of nitrogen. Each unit also received a Hauffman tank for transporting semen twice monthly from plants in Halifax and Sydney since earlier service via transport trucks had proved costly.

Dr. Clem Reeds of the Waterloo Unit was invited to Nova Scotia in May and held three meetings to promote the frozen program as the Waterloo Unit was involved in the frozen semen process. Technicians and interested farmers attended.

Editor Howard Roper circulated a quarterly newsletter to breeders. A monthly report followed reaching all technicians and consisted of news and conception reports on bulls and areas. Roper felt a need existed for improving the unit's sire policy and received support from many breeders. As a result, the unit's purchasing policy had perhaps one of the highest standards in the country at the time.

Further meetings were held with New Brunswick but little progress was made. Consideration was given to moving the Jersey stud to New Brunswick for the tran-

sfer of Guernsey stud to Nova Scotia.

Agricultural Society bulls were now eliminated in some areas and breeders were using Artificial Insemination. This assistance was made available to smaller sub-units in financial difficulties due largely to high mileage costs.

In December, Dr. Curtis, Alfred Scothorn and W. D. Murray were invited to American Breeders' Service (A.B.S.) offices in Chicago, a Madison and a beef stud in Carmel, Indiana. This unit was bidding for new fields to sell semen and made the unit a rather attractive offer providing it disposed of the stud. Semen was made available from all bulls on a rotating basis, and selected bulls were premium priced, rendering the offer unsatisfactory. The American Breeders' Service motto "All Bulls Proved Great" seemed questionable since approximately one in four bulls proved satisfactory.

Ontario units were visited where the possibility of purchasing semen was discussed as well.

1962

The Jersey stud was transferred to Fredericton and no new development concerning tha establishment of a Maritime Guernsey stud in Truro occurred.

On February 4th, a meeting was held in Amherst with the executive of the three units and committee members from the various breed were present. W. D. Murray called the meeting to discuss the purpose and future of Artificial Insemination and a Maritime unit. Dr. Moore felt that since New Brunswick was supplying Prince Edward Island with semen, New Brunswick could supply Nova Scotia as well. The price would be $1.50 per first service. The Truro unit would then be responsible for the operation of its own sub-units and the closure of the bull stud. These suggestions appeared too costly and no action was taken.

The Holstein sire committee visited New Brunswick to view two bulls which had recently joined the unit, with the idea of purchasing a one-third interest in the animals. The bulls, according to the committee did not meet the units standards.

Ron Snyder, Manager of Waterloo Cattle Breeders met with the Board on April 19th and submitted a proposal to takover Artificial Insemination in Nova Scotia, close out its stud, acquire all assets including the government grant and operate directly from the Ontario unit. After much discussion, no decision was reached since the Board felt it had no assurance that service costs would not increase considerably in the future if Mr. Snyder's recommendation was pursued.

The outcome of Prince Edward Island's annual meeting on June 1st revealed a positive attitude concerning the induction of a Maritime unit.

An Ayrshire bull was purchased jointly with New Brunswick for $1,250 and was housed at the Truro Unit.

The Truro Unit received a proposal from Ontario Association Animal Breeder's, Dr. Jim Henderson to supply it semen, and quoted the following prices: $1.50 per first service if the stud wad disposed of, $2.00 if it was maintained, plus transportation charges and the operation of the Sub-units. This proposition was considered too costly.

The Federal Purchasing Department reduced the yearly bull grant from $6,000 to $4,000. This reduction meant the unit would be responsible for the purchase of some of its bulls and an appeal for assistance in the form of a direct grant was made to the Nova Scotia Department. The Provincial Relief Technician policy was discontinued due to high costs and Ivan Graham later became technician for the Windsor area.

The first regular yearly conference for all technicians was held at Truro in October with Dr. Moore, New Brunswick Unit as a guest speaker.

Semen was now being frozen at both Fredericton and Guelph. On August 1st, Irvine Conrad of H.C.H. began breeding with frozen semen. Other units followed later.

1963

On January 1st, all sub-units commenced a completely frozen program. All technicians were fully equipped with refrigerator and transfer tanks for nitrogen, supplied by the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture. Nova Scotia Artificial Breeders' Committee became the first unit in Canada to start a 100 per cent frozen program.

Don Hamilton retired from the Board of Management after many years of service.

On February 4th, a meeting of all Maritime units was held in Amherst, The pros and cons concerning amalgamation were fully discussed but no decisions were made.

The Guernsey Sire Committee toured Ontario and United States in search of replacements for the stud. Four young bulls were selected in New York State and were later purchased. All four bulls were members of the National Young Sire Program formed in 1975.

A meeting of the dairy selection committee for the three provinces was held in Moncton in February as well.

In April, Stan Curtis became fully employed at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College and was no longer able to serve the unit. C. A. Douglas replaced him as Director of Livestock Services and a member of the Board.

In May, Dr. Moore and W. D. Murray made a joint announcement of a semen exchange program involving two Holstein and two Guernsey bulls from each Unit. This program appeared to be a significant step toward working co-operatively, but failed to meet the unit's expectations. It used more semen than sister units and paid $1.00 per vial for the extra semen.

The Federal Purchasing Department discontinued the grant for sire purchase. This decision caused concern for both units but with some application of pressure, the Department agreed to assist in beef bull purchases only.

On July 8th, a fire originating in the lab nearly destroyed the barn. All animals were saved, and repairs were made at once and business resumed.

A guernsey bull from the Harold McConnell herd in Yarmouth was placed in the stud on a lease basis.

The bull did not prove popular and his service was limited.

Joint advertising in the Maritime Farmer began with each unit rotating the advertisements.

Some indication existed that New Brunswick would be relocating their unit due to college expansion in their present quarters.

Dr. J. C. Rennie, Professor of Animal Husbandry, Guelph, guested at the Annual Technicians Conference held in September.

On November 8th, the Canadian Committee of Animal Breeders and the National Young Sire Proving Program for the minor breeds were formed at a meeting in Toronto. Most Artificial Insemination units in Canada participated in this venture which was to operate on a ten-year trial basis. The unit's four young Guernseys as well as the Ayrshires were used in the program. Due to to the decline in numbers in these breeds, all units found it difficult to mount sufficient proof on young bulls. This program appeared to provide the solution.

Some sub-units with high mileage continued to have financial difficulties, paying as high as $8.00 per first service while paying as little as 25 cents to the Central Unit. More assistance was required.

A resolution to have semen made available from young bulls in both Maritime units to all breeders for proving purposes was approved at the Annual Meeting.

The name "Nova Scotia Artificial Breeders" was changed to "Nova Scotia Animal Breeders" to coincide with request to have horses and swine bred artifically.

Services for the year amounted to 30,157.

Ernest Maynard's interest and background on sire analysis proved invaluable to the unit.

1964

Maritime meetings occupied the greater part of the first six months of 1964. The Holstein committees agreed to the resolution to make semen available from all young bulls inter-provincially while other leaders were mildly interested. Both units did agree to standardize their catalogue prodedures and supply each other with the pedigrees of all new bulls. Unfortunately, these plans were never realized.

A committee of farmers from Nova Scotia met secretly with W. D. Murray in Truro and stated a move was being made to have the unit relocated in Fredericton and expressed their unhappiness with the idea. The farmers much preferred to locate the unit at a central point in the Maritimes. W. D. Murray was requested to use his influence

if Nova Scotia was interested in a Maritime Unit.

A June 11th Management Meeting (called by W. D. Murray) attended by Deputy Minister Ellsworth Lewis, revealed the need for a Maritime Unit, favouring Moncton or Sackville as a new site rather than Fredericton. Mr. Lewis agreed to discuss the matter with the Deputies from the other two provinces at a later date.

Dr. Morre called a meeting in Amherst on June 19th. Those attending were the following: Dr. Morre and Ossie Huggard from New Brunswick; Dr. Kelley and Mr. Wright from Prince Edward Island; C. A. Douglas and W. D. Murray from Nova Scotia. Dr. Moore stated the unit must move. The Department of Public Works would relocate the unit at the Research Station in Fredericton. The unit would be constructed according to his specifications at no cost to the unit itself. Both Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia preferred the Moncton site and Dr. Moore was prepared to move where the business was established. Many questions remained unanswered. The subject of cost was among these and New Brunswick suggested that Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia should donate $35,000 each toward the scheme. It was agreed that the matter would be further discussed with the boards and with the government. One important question remained which awaited an answer concerning the site for the proposed Maritime unit. The Truro Unit felt Moncton would be a better site for relocation.

Ten days later, W. D. Murray received a copy of a letter from Mr. Wright stating they were prepared to put up the $35,000 and accept the aforementioned plan. Prince Edward Island presently purchased all semen from New Brunswick. As time passed, no word was received concerning Moncton and no commitment was made. A July 2nd meeting,excluding Nova Scotia unit attendance or knowledge, reached the decision to relocate the Maritime Unit in Fredericton. The Truro Unit felt a hasty decision concerning the proposed offer of $35,000 would be unwise since it meant the elimination of the Truro stud. Several New Brunswick Directors were reluctant to make the decision so hastily and requested further negotitaions to be held with Nova Scotia. The whole issue died and the relocation took place a few years later. The Truro Unit decided to carry on its own operations.

A new Veterinary Herd Health Assistance Policy was established by the Department of Agriculture with the Truro Unit whereby the Department paid the call fee of $5 to the veterinarian for infertility work, pregnancy checks, etc. in herds. The farmer would be responsible for all drug costs.

Two highly recommended Herford bulls were purchased by the unit in Miles City, Nevada. Unfortunately, one was a poor semen producer and the other was sterile.

Don Cox of the Department of Agriculture and W. D. Murray attended the annual meetings of the National Committee of Animal Breeders at Toronto.

1965

Securing a relief technician continued to be a problem and requests from sub-units were considered. The Board decided that hiring a technician for the whole province would be too expensive. An effort was made to train someone in each sub-unit who could relieve the regular technician who was working *seven days a week*. This system has worked very well in some areas, while in others, it has enjoyed only limited success.

The bull Downalane Century Ensign was purchased and brought into the unit.

Pins were presented to Don Cameron, Ulli Poehl and Irvine Conrad on behalf of the National Association for having over 35,000 first services to their credit.

T. C. MacConnell retired from Board of Management and was replaced by Arnold Van Heighton, Antigonish.

Cattle sales increased and the facilities proved inadequate, especially for feeder sales. Howard Roper and associates borrowed the money to erect a sales ringt and corrals at the Exhibition Grounds. This

ring improved the sales' success with the 1965 Feeder Sale selling more than 2,500 head of cattle.

1966

An addition consisting of two large pens was built adjoining the barn since Canadian Animal Health regulations called for isolation of new bulls entering the unit while undergoing health tests.

Another Maritime Meeting was held in Moncton, where the topic of bulls was discussed.

The executive revised the New Brunswick unit to see their bulls and tour the facilities which were still housed at the original location after the hasty decision two years earlier.

Many breeders conducted substantial cross breeding during 1965 and 1966 to help supply the new provincial abattoir in Halifax. This cross breeding resulted in a shortage of milk replacements and a large number of heifers were requested and moved from Ontario. Howard Roper supervised this move and the Department of Agriculture assisted in transportation.

Services for the year amounted to 30,173. The 1966 Management Board consisted of: W. D. Murray, Alfred Scothorn, Avery Duncanson, Ray Longley, C. A. Douglas, Arnold Van Heighton, Edward Dickie and Dawson Wile.

1967

An Artificial Insemination Unit was formed in St. John's, Newfoundland on August 1st, 1967, by the Dairyman's Association and semen was suppled to them resulting in some 800 services per year. Mr. Roper and W. D. Murray visited and held meetings with the farmers in St. John's.

Avon breeders were experiencing breeding problems, and the conception figures decreased substantially. Roy Snyder arrived from Guelph to check unit procedures.

The jointly owned Nova Scotia and New Brunswick Ayrshire bull was slaughtered and a bull owned by Archie MacMillan was placed in the unit on a lease basis. This bull had placed first in his class at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto.

With the increasing demand for fresh cows, cattle cows were held twice monthly.

The Experimental Farm at Nappan initiated a beef testing program and used semen from selected sires of Ontario units.

While attending the National Meetings in Toronto, W. D. Murray questioned the reason for the high price

of liquid nitrogen in the Maritimes. All other units were paying much less with some giving as low as 10 cents per litre while the Truro Unit's price remained at 40 cents. Support from the other units was received and a National level review was suggested.

Services for the year amounted to 30,891, a figure which constituted approximately 46% of the cattle population and the highest number of any province in Canada.

Avon Breeders submitted a resolution at the annual meeting requesting the Provincial Department of Agriculture to engage a qualified consultant to complete a cost accounting study in order to determine the best means of providing the most efficient and economical Artificial Insemination Service in Canada.

Arnold Van Heighton resigned from the Board as he discontinued dairy farming. Gilmore MacLellan of Noel assumed his position.

1968

Elkur Wayne Comet Finderne was classified as an excellent bull. Five Hundred (500) vials of Ebydale Rag Apple Persus were sold to Switzerland. An exchange of 1,000 vials of Comet semen was arranged with Eastern Breeders from four of their bulls.

Avon Breeders continued to experience poor conception rates and the Board voted $400 toward defraying expenses of their technician to visit Ontario Units in an effort to solve the problem. The technician declined the offer.

Roy Snyder of Ontario Association Animal Breeders' proposed a truck delivery service of nitrogen from Ontario throughout Quebec and the Maritimes. This service would lower costs but the offer was turned down by all units, especially those in Quebec who were expanding their facilities extensively.

Ebydale Rag Applie Persus died in June, having been one of the unit's outstanding sires in improving livestock over the years.

Two unit technicians made anonymous applications to the Department of Agriculture for a distributor's license to bring semen from Ontario for use in their respective sub-units. Nova Scotia Artificial Breeders' Committee held the only rights to import semen and the request was not granted.

The Department of Agriculture appointed Dr. George Barr of the Agricultural College of Technology, Kemptville, Ontario to complete the Artificial Insemination study concerning amalgamation as requested. Dr. Barr made two visits to Nova Scotia before making his recommendation.

A small unit was formed in Cornerbrook, Newfoundland with semen purchased from Nova Scotia Artificial Breeders' Committee. This unit did not become successful.

A joint meeting of Maritime Sire Committee was held in Fredericton. The Holstein men were not impressed with New Brunswick sires, but agreed to continue further joint advertising in Maritime Farmer. Ayrshire and Guernsey breeders discussed plans to consolidate the breeds into one unit.

Three zone meetings were held in the Province for technicians, with Mr. Banbury of the United Breeders as guest speaker.

W. D. Murray attended a meeting of unit managers at the Quebec unit, St. Hyacinthe in October and was very impressed with the advance made in Artificial Insemination in the province and the new barns, etc. which had just been completed at a cost of more than a quarter million dollars. Evidently, the expansion was part of an effort to keep pace with Ontario and recover some of the business American Breeders' Institute now held in Quebec. Artificial Insemination was heavily subsidized by the Quebec government.

MacBain Citation entered the unit from Halifax where he had just won in the reserve champion class at the Winter Fair.

Services totalled 30,891 - *the same number as the previous year.*

Don Newcombe replaced Avery Duncanson on the Board of Management.

1969

Dr. Barr submitted his report following the study to the Annual Meeting in January which follows briefly: "It is strongly recommended that sub-units be phased out as operational units and all membership be directly with Nova Scotia Artificial Breeders' Committee. The main reasons being to increase utilization of management ability at the Nova Scotia Artificial Breeders' Committee, improve technician morale, improve collection procedures for service fees and to attempt to bring about a logical and equitable distribution of costs among members. With a direct membership organization, policy decisions could continue to be made as at present with regional representation on the Provincial Board. Technicians would also be responsible to one person and this should make a strong organization."

Dr. Barr was also impressed with the quality of the Truro Unit's bulls and the fact that Nova Scotia Artificial Breeders' Committee was prepared to bring in semen from any bull in any unit for breeders upon request at a small handling charge was unheard of

in any other units.

In April, Howard Roper began the delivery operation of semen and nitrogen via the Truro Unit's truck directly to the inseminators. Nitrogen was picked up at the Dartmouth plant of Canadian Liquid Air in our own tanks. Mr. Roper also did some field work while travelling.

American Breeders ordered 30 vials of Comet semen for use in planned matings in the United States.

MacBan Citation was chosen Grand Champion at the Fredericton Exhibition in September. This victory helped make the bull very popular among the breeders.

Throughout the year, meetings were held in all sub-units to discuss the Barr Report. Most units welcomed the change, amalgamation could not occur quickly enough. Three units including H.C.H., Kings and Colchester had built up a considerable amount of assets and were reluctant at first but only Kings County strongly opposed. Director Don Newcombe of the King's Unit handled the situation extremely well, and supported the amalgamation in spite of his home unit's opposition to the move. Most breeders of the King's Unit felt Truro was an economically unviable site.

Resignations submitted by secretaries Tom Isenor and Mrs. Isenor resulted in a substantial workload for Mr. Roper and Mr. Murray for the next six weeks.

A Hillwinds tested Charalois bull was placed in the New Brunswick stud of which the Truro Unit had access. Two years later, a second bull was added to the stud.

CHAPTER 3

1970's AMALGAMATION

Delegates to the annual meeting held in January approved of the progress made toward amalgamation. Further meetings were necessary with some units. June 1st was set as a tentative starting date and the same Management Committee was to carry on for the first year without change.

Mrs. Juanita Babineau was appointed the new secretary and a little later, Miss Bonnie Sandeson was added to the office staff.

The Department of Agriculture granted $6,000 to the unit for the purchase of new equipment for future use.

In May, the Ayrshire stud was consolidated in Fredericton and the Guernsey bulls from New Brunswick were stabled in Truro.

On May 31st, lab technician John Clarke, retired after fourteen years service. Don Cameron, Truro Unit technician assumed Clarke's position and in turn, was succeeded by Isaac Smith of Mabou, Inverness County.

Amalgamation commenced June 1st with few difficulties encountered.

A new bookkeeping machine was purchased at a cost of $10,000. The machine was designed to complete record keeping, billing and payroll duties. Conception recording remained the task of W. D. Murray.

An agreement was reached with Canadian Liquid Air to install a nitrogen tank at the unit on a monthly rental basis.

An Employee Group Insurance Plan with company participation was instituted on October 1st with London Life Insurance Company.

Four farmers were trained to do in-herd breeding within their own herds. A policy was established to enable the inseminator to recover his loss in that particular herd of $2.50 per first service.

The office upstairs in the farmhouse now became completely inadequate for space, heating, etc. The house and lot were therefore, sold and plans to erect a new office were drawn.

The breeding fee was set at a standard $6.00 on June 1st which probably helped account for a drop in services, as the larger units had been paying $5.00 previously.

Several farmers were also holding dispersals.

The Province consisted of nine zones, each represented by one director elected at Zone Meetings for a three year term.

ZONE DISTRICTS INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING:

ZONE 1	Cape Breton Island
ZONE 2	Pictou, Antigonish, Guysborough
ZONE 3	Central Colchester
ZONE 4	Cumberland, Pugwash units
ZONE 5	Halifax, South Colchester, East Hants
ZONE 6	Kings County
ZONE 7	Annapolis, Digby
ZONE 8	Hants County (Avon Units)
ZONE 9	Lunenburg, Queens, Shelburne, Clare and Yarmouth

The Director of Livestock Services for the Province is also to be a member of the Board ex-officio.

1971

In January, two rooms in the Stonehouse Motel were rented for office space where the Unit remained for five months. An office was erected adjoining the barn and the unit moved on a schedule on June 1st.

Don Newcombe was elected President of the 9 member Board of Directors, as the Province consisted of nine zones. Eric Harvey, Vice-President; other members

were: Francis Beks, Donald MacInnis, Edward Dickie, Donald Logan, Clarence Crouse, William Van Roestel, Ivan Sweeney and C. A. Douglas. This election left only two members of the old board excluding W. D. Murray. (W. D. Murray became the General Manager).

Mr. Roper had been extremely busy with sales, especially where there were a number of dispersals throughout the Province.

Newsletters were discontinued and replaced by a couple of pages taken in the Nova Scotia Farmer, a monthly edition of the Federation of Agriculture.

Contract breeding began in the exotic breeds with an arrangement between the Unit and Dr. Sandy Best of Dundas Farms, Prince Edward Island.

Staff members at the Central Unit were as follows: Mrs. Babineau, secretary, Doreen Merritt, Marilyn Le Blanc, Howard Roper, Don Cameron, Wally Stead and Howard Pyne.

Both Mrs. Babineau and Don Cameron were hospitalized during the year and Wally Stead required a serious heart operation. Dr. Van Zwol's assistance in the lab during Don's absence proved invaluable while Howard Pyne's experience in the barn was helpful as well.

1972

Anthony Huekhorst replaced Francis Beks and Joe Van Oirschot succeeded Don MacInnis on the Board of Directors.

In March, Mrs. Babineau resigned as Secretary due to ill health and Diane Van Derberge carried on until September when Mrs. Amy Weatherbee assumed the position.

Dr. Van Zwol died suddenly in April and in early May, Alois Jeromel, Technician in Central Inverness died of a heart attack. Dr. Van Zwol, always popular with the staff because of his wit, had been of great help over the years to the Unit and would be missed. Dr. Robin Phillips replaced him and his work with farmers and technicians has been outstanding.

Howard Roper retired April 30th, after more than twenty years of service with the unit. He was honoured and given a purse of money which was contributed to from almost every provincial farm organization and cattle association within the province. Mr. Roper is now operating the cattle sales, having taken it over from Nova Scotia Artificial Breeders' Committee.

In May, Mr. MacInnis began freezing the semen in straws. The operation involved straws completely except for export to certain foreign countries.

It also eliminated heavy transportation charges and some losses in transit to Fredericton.

New Brunswick had purchased four young Holstein bulls and the Truro Unit needed new sires as well. A visit to New Brunswick was suggested to view the bulls and if satisfactory, try and purchase a part interest, thus, enabling the Unit to place semen from new bulls in the field more quickly. A committee of six made the trip in May and offered to purchase an interest in two bulls. The New Brunswick committee was not in the least interested but were very anxious to sell semen at $1.00 per vial, which Nova Scotia turned down. The bull committee, therefore, had to search for new bulls.

The Holstein committee was changed and broadened. Three members were appointed by the Nova Scotia Holstein Association, two by the Unit which included the Maritime Fieldman, Ernie Jarvis and Ernie Maynard who acted as secretary.

The first Angus bull entered the Truro Unit. The bull was from the Pyne Brothers of Harmony.

The following sub-units had turned over all their assets amounting to more than $22,000: Avon Breeders, Baddeck, Cape Breton, Cumberland, H.C.H., Central Inverness, North

Inverness, Lunenburg, Pugwash, Truro and Yarmouth. Annapolis County had upwards of $2,000 in assets but retained all but about $300 and invested it in their Exhibition and Cattle Sales.

Kings County turned in their accounts receivable of $1,200. The Provincial Government had redeemed shares to all who held them in the Nova Scotia abattoir and had already closed their books. After this move, the Valley unit forwarded their shares of $2,000. After some lobbying, the Unit was able to recover this sum. However, they returned $13,000 and invested it in a in a trust fund. This action caused a *mild storm* among other members in view of the fact they felt the unit reneged their obligations to the Central Unit, as assistance given by the Department of Agriculture had benefited everyone and enabled some of the larger sub-units to build healthy bank accounts.

1973

Eric Harvey was elected President and Edward Dickie, Vice-President. John Van De Wiel replaced Don Logan of Amherst on the Board of Directors.

Sale of semen to many foreign countries had become big business for Ontario Association Animal Breeders' and the Ontario Units, while the remaining sold very little or none and watched their progress with envy.

The Unit entered an agreement with Barry Weaver, head of International Breeding Resources, who sold semen from privately owned bulls. Three of Unit's bulls were cataloqued in this transaction.

Some other units including those in Quebec and New Brunswick were interested and apparently this interest caused concern in Ontario. Clem Reeds and Bob Lanning of the Ontario Association Animal Breeders' visited the Maritimes.

On August 29th, a meeting of Canadian Association of Animal Breeders' which included managers from most of the units in Canada, was held in Vancouver. Everyone stated they wanted a share of the market if they owned bulls which met the requirements and W. D. Murray made it clear why the Truro Unit supported International Breeding Resources.

The situation soon began to change, an interest in bulls of other units arose. International Breeding Resources failed to crack the market to any extent except a few privately owned bulls. Suddenly, the Truro Unit learned that Barry Weaver became a salesman with Semex Canada and his organization became history.

Doug Blair of Western Breeders' visited the Unit and arrangements were made to supply them with semen from a couple of bulls on consignment.

A great interest arose in the Exotics in the Western Provinces and United States. Import permits could be obtained by units but were difficult to obtain by individuals. The Unit was approached by Dr. Sandy Best to make application and succeeded in obtaining a Blonde D'Acquitaine which arrived in Truro. W. D. Murray obtained permits for two Chianina, a Romanola, a Machingino and a Normande in the following two years. With the slump in the beef market, this business dropped off sharply. The move may not have been financially profitable but proved an interesting experience.

In August, the service fee increased to $8.00 per first service.

Don Cameron was made Assistant Manager. Mr. Cameron had now bred well over 60,000 a precedented figure in Canada at the time.

Several planned matings were made in the Province but none were successful as far as obtaining a young bull for the unit.

In February, the office staff underwent some changes: Mrs. Evelyn Ryan replaced Doreen Merritt (Hall) and later Miss Vicki Sanderson took Mrs. LeBlanc's place in the office. In May, Glen McKinnon began a career as a lab technician. The unit was short staffed since

Wally Stead was recovering from a serious heart operation.

The year also saw a change in the Director of Livestock. C. A. Douglas was appointed Deputy Minister of Agriculture for the Province and Dick Huggard succeeded Mr. Douglas as Director.

1974

Edward Dickie was elected President, Joe Van Oirschot Vice-President. Donald Newcombe retired from the Board of Directors, having accepted the position as Manager of C. & M. Ells Poultry Farm at Port Williams. George Archibald replaced Mr. Newcombe on the Board.

On February 12th, Edward Dickie and W. D. Murray attended an important meeting of Semex Canada held in Toronto. Once again, outside units expressed a strong desire to become involved in the export market and Semex's proposal detailed the assignation of salesmen to other countries, making foreign business potentially profitable. Quebec Units, however, made it known they would give Semex one year to make some sales for them or they would embark on a sales program of their own.

In July, Semex officers and sales staff visited the unit including- Roy Snyder, Moe Freeman, Ricki MacDonald, Guelph; Armando Gomez, Mexico and Dr. F. G. Sota, South

America and Jack De Roog, Netherlands. The staff was impressed by the unit's operation and soon orders arrived with the Ensign and McBan bulls proving to be the most popular.

Our Government grant was increased to $48,000 for the year.

At the Annual Meeting of Canadian Committee of Animal Breeders in November, the organization was restructured. Ernie Maynard was elected a director and also Chairman of a Research Committee.

A bull calf Moersche-Dale Supersonic was purchased jointly by a syndicate consisting of British Columbia, Eastern Breeders, and the Maritime Units. The price was set at $62,000. Ten Thousand Dollars would be paid in cash and the balance amounted to $1.00 per dose. Nova Scotia share was 10 percent or $6,200. The joint owners were known as "Trans Canada Semen Syndicate".

Lunenburg became part of Zone 9, Kings County since Yarmouth was found to be a convenient site for attending meetings.

Services for the year totalled 28,045.

Regular technicians for the Province were the following

ANNAPOLIS	JOHN BEST
ANTIGONISH	JAMES MACNEIL
AVON	OWEN PALMER
BADDECK	EDMUND NICHOLSON
CAPE BRETON	MICHAEL MACINTYRE
CUMBERLAND	WELDON TRAVIS
H.C.H.	SCOTT MATHESON
CENTRAL INVERNESS	JOHN D. MACDONALD
NORTH INVERNESS	LEO LEBLANC
IONA	RODERICK MACNEIL
LUNENBURG	VICTOR NAUGLER
NOEL	WINSTON HAMILTON
PUGWASH	ROD MACDONALD
RICHMOND	JOSEPH MACNEIL
PICTOU	DANNY MACWILLIAM
TRURO	ISAAC SMITH
VALLEY(KINGS)	GEORGE FLORIS
YARMOUTH	RICHARD CHURCHILL
DIGBY	STANLEY GAUDET
MARION BRIDGE	FRANK DAWE

1975

Anthony Heukshorst retired from the Board of Directors and was replaced by Jake Voerman.

A semen order for 5,000 doses of Ensign and MacBan was received from Australia, largely through the efforts of salesman Barry Weaver. The net value amounted to $45,000 providing all health requirements could be met, one of which was Blue Tongue. To meet requirements, it was necessary to test 115 sheep and hold the semen in storage for one year. A nearby barn was rented to house the sheep and the test was completed. Unfortunately, Ensign had to be destroyed in June and Australia would

not accept semen from anything but live animals. However, 2,000 doses of McBan Citation went to Australia and a shipment from both bulls was sent to New Zealand.

The office staff completed a much needed membership roll for the province. With the retirement of C. A. Douglas as Deputy Minister of Agriculture, promotions involved the following: Walter Grant to Deputy Minister; Richard Huggard to Director of Extension and Stuart Allaby to Director of Livestock Services and to our Board as well. A Farm Relief Milker Service Program for the province under the direction of the Department of Agriculture and the Nova Scotia Artificial Breeders' Committee was discussed and approved in principle. Prior to W. D. Murray's retirement on April 30th, Gordon Grant, Milford, was chosen from among fourteen applicants as Manager of Field Operations.

The President and Manager of the largest Artificial Insemination Unit in Germany visited and purchased Engisn semen.

The year 1975 emerged as a successful year with $54,000 worth of semen sold through Semex, amounting to nearly $2.00 per first service to the farmers and helped hold the fee at $9.00. The year 1975 showed a profit of $20,000.

The government now contributed a $50,000 grant to assist Artificial Insemination, a far cry from the $4,000 the Unit had received in 1962.

In 1975, 21 inseminators through the province provided tremendous service for farmers. (In most cases, 7 days a week). A few relief men were also available in some areas.

Bill Murray retired after many years of service. He was not only involved in the unit's daily operations, but helped greatly in its early days as a centre struggling to achieve amalgamation. Due largely to his efforts as well as others, amalgamation was achieved under the Central Unit (Nova Scotia Animal Breeders' Co-operative) in Truro.

At an *Open House*, held at the Unit, on October 4, 1975 Mr. Murray was presented with two silver foxes and a scroll honouring his years of dedication to the Artificial Insemination Industry in Nova Scotia.

One new Holstein bull entered the Unit in 1975 and export sales involved the following countries: Mexico, Brazil, Uruguay, Portugal, Germany, Austrial, Italy, India, New Zealand and Australia.

1976

At a January meeting of the Central Unit, Edward Dickie was elected President while George Archibald was chosen Vice-President.

The unit agreed to institute a Semen Insurance Program which would provide coverage for special semen shipments from other provinces.

The unit decided to employ the services of a photographer in order to supply a more detailed catalogue of its bull stock.

One new Guernsey bull entered the unit (Ensign) while McBan Citation reveived the *Class Extra Award.*

Services for the 1976-1977 year amounted to 30,907.

Export sales included the following countries: Australia, Mexico, Brazil, Uruguay, Portugal, Italy, Malta, Venezuela, Argentina, Tanzania and Hong Kong.

1977

In 1977, George Archibald assumed the Presidency of the Central Unit (Nova Scotia Animal Breeders'), while Clarence Crouse filled the Vice-President's position. Gordon Grant became manager of the unit, having conducted fieldwork in the province since 1975.

The unit began a number of somestic improvements including the purchase of a new truck for semen transportation uses, a large semen storage tank and a computer for the facility. In addition, renovations to the laboratory were discussed.

The unit started to supply National Idantity Cards (N.I.P. cards) for sale to breeders to identify their grade cattle. Service fees increased in March by $1.00 while Lucky Seven semen export was expanded to include the Tri-State breeders. Later, our thousand doses of Lucky Seven semen to Spain were cut back by directors following injuries to the bull.

A semen exchange agreement between the Central and British Columbia Unit was reached as well as the joint purchase of a bull ("Stoltzfus-Astronaut Syn") with New Brunswick and British Columbia operations. Stoltzfus-Astronaut Syn was housed at the Central Unit.

Permission was granted to buy a red and white Holstein bull increasing the number of Holsteins entered in the unit to 31.

Some interest in swine and goat artificial insemination was expressed at the meeting while the Halifax, Colchester and Hants County region was divided into two areas.

An Open House was held in October at the Central Unit. "Ronbeth Lucky Seven" received the *Superior Production Award* and services for 1977-78 totalled 31,951.

In 1977, export sales were transacted with the following countries: Poland, Portugal, France, Spain, Austria, Italy, Bulgaria, Egypt, Kuwait, Burma, India, and Brazil.

1978

Clarence Crouse was elected President of the Nova Scotia Animal Breeders' (N.S.A.B.) at the Central Unit in 1978 and Gordon Jackson was chosen Vice-President. Wally Stead retired after many years of service to the unit. Artificial Insemination Unit pioneer *Bill Murray* was admitted into the Agricultural Hall of Fame in Windsor, Nova Scotia for his countless years of dedication to Artificial Insemination operations.

Dr. Moe Freeman of Semex Canada Limited was guest speaker at the Annual Meeting where the semen requirements for export to other countries was discussed since Semex was the sole semen exporter to other countries other than the United States.

Repairs to the unit's old barn were completed in 1978, including the construction of five pens in the rear section, while it was agreed to place steel on the barn's south end. Computerized operations were underway by 1978 and income tax problems which had plagued the unit for a few years were resolved. The unit agreed to assume full operation of the government sponsored Farm Labour Relief Service Program which had been in service under the Truro Unit since approximately 1976. This program provided relief milking and hoof trimming services.

The Unit acquired the owner's portion of an Exotic Bull "Chaniniana" and housed the animal at its facilities. In addition, the unit received the semen plus the slaughter value of the Curtis Breeders' bull, "Packlamar Astronaut", one of the top bulls in North America at the time. The semen from three or four bulls from other units was made available to farmers and the Central Unit acquired interest in an Ontario bull.

Seven Holstein bulls entered the Unit in 1978 with a service total of 33,841 for the 1978-79 year. "Huntsdale Medallion" received the *Superior Production Award*, based on his offspring.

Export sales for the 1978 year included the following countries: Poland, The Netherlands, France, Austria, Hungary, Burma, India, the Philippines and Hong Kong.

1979

The Central Unit elected Gordon Jackson as President and Arthur Porter as Vice-President for the 1979 year.

The unit formed a building committee to examine further expansion and in September, agreed to the construction of a *new semen collection area*. The unit agreed to institute a heat synchronization of cattle technique in the pen at River John and Mabou with no conclusive results yielded in that year. Other decisions reached by the unit included the discontinuation of the coupon system for new bulls and the consequent initiation of no *charges on semen used by official testers*.

Fees increased with a change in the unit's service policy to $6.50 per service charge plus the price of semen. Prior to this increase, repeat service had been free of charge.

Peter Penner of the United Breeders' visited the unit and conducted a two day seminar with a first day refresher course for technicians and a unit and staff workshop involving the semen taking place the second day.

Eastern Breeders' placed three proven bulls on consignment in the Unit raising the unit's Holstein entry number to four during this year. One red and white Holstein bull met with great success, exporting a substantial supply of semen to Switzerland, Czechoslavakia, Mexico, United Stated and throughout Canada.

Services during the 1979-1980 year totalled 32,801 with export sales including France, Italy, Swasiland, Kenya and Brazil.

CHAPTER 4

1980 IMPROVEMENTS

Arthur Porter was elected President of the unit and J. R. MacLeod, Vice-President for the 1980 year, and lab technician Paul Goodspeed joined the staff.

The year saw a number of *changes and improvements* for the unit including the completion of a new collection area and separate laboratory facilities. Previously, the semen storage area had been combined with the laboratory.

In May of 1980, the unit purchased a cold cabinet for semen processing, a filler and sealer for semen preparation and in September, a new semen transporting truck.

The unit discontinued its computer service since it had proved ineffective. The Federal Department of Agriculture dropped its beef bull policy early in 1980, informing the unit it could no longer purchase any beef bulls. The Nova Scotia Animal Breeders' Co-operative ceased operations in May of the Farm Labour Relief Program as well.

Daughters of bulls were tested for milking speed in order to obtain bull proofs and breeding fees increased to $10.00 per service plus semen charges and $3.00 for return service plus semen charges. Semen from bulls on the restricted list increased to $4.00 per dose in December.

Six Holstein bulls entered the unit in 1980 while export sales were transacted with Scotland, Poland, France, Switzerland, Austria, Italy and Costra Rica. Services totalled 34,951 for the 1980-81 year.

1981

Unit President elected for the 1981 year was J. R. MacLeod and Gerald Reid served as Vice-President.

Paul Goodspeed left the unit in 1981 and Jane Palmer assumed his position. Mr. Peter Penner of the United Breeders' returned in June 1981 to conduct seminars on semen collection and processing.

The unit approved of the construction of a new barn and formed a committee to meet with the Minister of Agriculture in 1982. The Association's By-Laws were revised and four bulls received awards from the Holstein Freezing Association including three who were classified as "Very Good" while "Grasshill Magic Man" was classified as "Excellent". "Trugen Supreme Sultan" received the Superior Type Award. Five Holstein bulls had entered the unit by the end of 1981.

Services for the 1980-1981 year totalled 34,951 with export transactions involving France, Spain, Hungary, Czechslovakia and Mexico.

1982

Robert Wilson became Unit President in 1982 and Martin Vissers took over the Vice-Presidency.

The Committee formed to meet with the Minister of Agriculture concerning the funding of the proposed new barn was not successful in obtaining a grant and instead, a loan from the Farm Loan Board was received.

The unit initiated a new policy concerning embryo checks whereby the technician would receive a fee for the extra call in the required two visit procedure. In September, the Private Breeders' Policy was updated and mileage rates equalled that of the civil servant's rates with the exception of the lower rate which increased by .4 cents.

Service fees were raised to $12.00 plus semen charge with the return visit amounting to $5.00 plus semen charges.

Five Holstein bulls had entered the unit during the 1982 year with "Monoak Mark Snow" and "Jamesville Matt George" receiving the *Superior Type Awards*.

Services for the year totalled 34,863.

Export sales were conducted with Mexico, Peru, Chile, Scotland, The Netherlands and Czechoslovakia.

1983

Unit President for the 1983 year was Martin Vissers and Tom MacLennan served as Vice-President. Gordon Grant was operations' manager.

In March, the Unit applied to the Federal Department of Agriculture for funds from the Canada Nova Scotia Agri-Food Development Agreement (AFDA) program to secure

a field technician and the application has since been approved.

Discussion has arisen concerning the unit's doing purchase of bulls with the New Brunswick unit and in August, semen exchange for day to day service from proven New Brunswick and Nova Scotia bulls began.

Some conflict has arisen during the 1983 year concerning the sale of semen in Nova Scotia by an American Breeders' Service agent. These sales involved the purchase of semen directly from the farmers, a practice which is contrary to the Provincial Act concerning semen transactions. This Act requires all semen to be sold through licensed Artificial Insemination centres. The conflict still remains unresolved.

In January, the Unit secured possession of "Robthum Elevation Gaylord", a highly proven Quebec Bull, Gaylordis was now available for service at the Central Unit.

Five Holstein bulls had entered the unit by the end of 1983.

Services for the year, including returns, totalled 47,653.

Stoltzfus Astronaut Syn received the *Superior Type Award* earlier as well.

Export sales for 1983 included Swasiland, the U.S.S.R. Costa Rica and the United Kingdom. Tours of Nicaraugian and Bolivian visitors interested in the Artificial Insemination have been conducted at the unit. These visitors desired information concerning their respective agricultural developments.

Government funding to the unit has remained constant since 1975 and the unit's operations have expanded to include twenty field technicians, of which nine are employed full time. The unit now has eight storage tanks, making an increase of five tanks since 1975; as well as modern lab facilities.

CONCLUDING NOTES

W. D. MURRAY

My association with the Nova Scotia Artificial Breeders' Committee was a pleasant and rewarding experience. I met and worked with many fine people, not only in Nova Scotia but from other parts of Canada and foreign countries as well. The co-operation I received from staff employees, Board Members, Department workers and farmers in general, was wonderful and appreciated.

But my greatest satisfaction proved to be the improvement of livestock during the years. Our biggest drawback is the lack of enough breeders on Record of Performance helping to prove our young bulls quickly enough. This development is imperative, not only for the benefit of the unit, but to insure completion in the foreign market as well.

Everyone has their successes and failures in life and I have always felt I failed in that we do not have a strong Maritime Unit. I do not know where the reason lies, but it seemed that it just was not to be, and I am sure the boys from Nova Scotia are a long way from being completely at fault. The bright spot is in

seeing accomplished what a few of our critics said could not be done, the amalgamation of all sub-units and successful operations from the Central Unit. It is now a reality and Nova Scotia is capable of operating its own Artificial Insemination Unit in the years ahead.

C. A. DOUGLAS

C. A. Douglas is among the list of those dedicated to the Artificial Insemination Industry in Nova Scotia having been associated with the local unit since approximately 1959.

W. D. Murray, long time associate and friend, described Mr. Douglas this way:

"Charles Allan Douglas has that rare, if not unique ability to instill confidence in his fellow man, inspiring them to assume leadership roles, to set objectives for themselves, their organizations and to strive actively and aggressively for the development of their organization and community".

This distinguished public servant and volunteer started his remarkable career in the field of agriculture in 1933 when he graduated from the Nova Scotia Agricultural Collete in Bible Hill and in the succeeding years, added an endless list of notable achievements to his record.

This *deep concern for his fellow man'* (Farm Focus, 1982) led Douglas to become involved in countless community and agricultural committees and associations promoting an equally impressive number of honourary positions and awards.

He graduated from the Ontario Agricultural College in 1935, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree and secured employment with the Scotsburn Creamery.

Later, he was appointed as Assistant Agricultural Representative for Pictou County with the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, (Marketing and Economics Branch). In 1940, he became the agricultural representative for Hants County and in 1944, the manager for Avon Valley Greenhouses Limited in Falmouth, Nova Scotia.

Douglas served as President of the Nova Scotia Guernsey Breeders' Association in 1945; and Vice-President of the Canadian Guernsey Breeders' Association during 1946 and 1947. Douglas assumed the Vice-Presidency of the Nova Scotia Livestock Council in 1946 and was Director of the Canadian Council of 4-H Clubs from 1952 to 1963 and was appointed President of the same Council in 1958.

The year 1947 saw C. A. Douglas return to the Department of Agriculture as Assistant Director of Extension, later serving as Director of Extension in 1952. In 1963, he was made an honourary life member of the Canadian Society of Rural Extension in 1972.

From 1937 until his death at the age of 72 in September 1982, C. A. Douglas was associated with the

Canadian Society of Technical Agriculturalists, now the Agricultural Institute of Canada.

In 1973, C. A. Douglas was appointed Deputy Minister of Agriculture and was made Fellow of the Agricultural Institute of Canada in 1975. Douglas was admitted to the *Agricultural Hall of Fame, Windsor, Nova Scotia* in 1979. Douglas retired from the Department of Agriculture in 1975, after 35 years of service.

Other positions held by C. A. Douglas are as follows: Manager and later President of the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition (1980-82), Secretary to the Hereford Breeders' and Joint Dairy Breeders' Association, Treasurer of the Nova Scotia Swine Breeding Stock Society, Director and later President of the Nova Scotia Exhibition Association and development fund chairman for the Alumni Theatre (N.S.A.C.) and the Truro Raceway Committee. Douglas received the Distinguished Service Award at the 55th Canadian Association of Exhibitions Convention in May, 1982, and the Truro Raceway built a new C. A. Douglas Grandstand in July of the same year, the former building was destroyed by fire in 1981.

Douglas has been involved in provincial leadership training programs and with the production of the C.B.C. Radio Program, "Farm Forum" which operated between the years of 1940 and the 1960 decade as well.

W. D. MURRAY

W. D. Murray has been associated with the Artificial Insemination Industry in Nova Scotia for approximately thirty years, retiring in 1975 after having served as a Director for three years in 1950 and President and Chairman of the Board of Management in 1960. Murray is a lifetime member of the present Nova Scotia Animal Breeders' Association as well.

Murray's efforts along with those of Dr. Stan Curtis and Howard Roper helped realize the amalgamation of the Nova Scotia Artificial Insemination Industry into a central unit located in Truro. W. D. Murray and associates visited many artificial insemination sites in Canada and the United States during his years of connection with the local unit in an effort to improve the Truro unit's operations. His dedication to the industry is illustrated in his documentation of this Artificial Insemination History.

W. D. Murray was born on a farm in North River, Nova Scotia. He presently operates the same Holstein dairy farm and a small fox ranch which breeds silver foxes as well.

Mr. Murray is now President of the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition and is a member of the Vegetable and Tractor Pull Committees. Mr. Murray has been

involved in the Tractor Pull Committee since its inception approximately eight years ago.

Mr. Murray holds an impressive record of involvement in agriculture as well, having served as President of Colchester Co-operative Services, the Colchester Federation of Agriculture and the Truro Milk Producers'. He is still a Director of the Farmers' Dairy Limited, formerly known as the Twin Cities' Co-operative. Both he and C. A. Douglas were members of the C.B.C. Farm Forum program which originated under the Federation of Agriculture in the 1940's decade. Murray was honoured in 1978 , when he was admitted to the Agricultural Hall of Fame, Windsor, Nova Scotia

W. D. Murray's achievements trace an impressive career in the agricultural field in Nova Scotia.

HOWARD ROPER

Howard Roper of Onslow, Nova Scotia, is another notable pioneer of the Nova Scotia Artificial Insemination Industry. Originally from Prince Edward Island, Roper farmed in Princeport until he moved to Onslow.

Roper has been an active member in the Artificial Insemination Industry since its inception, before the amalgamation of all the Nova Scotia units into the local breeders' co-op (Nova Scotia Animal Breeders' Co-operative) under one unit in Truro.

Roper completed fieldwork and sire selection during a considerable part of his involvement with the Artificial Insemination operations. Later, Roper operated cattle sales under the local Artificial Insemination unit and was responsible for the selection of milk cows from Ontario. Bill Murray notes that Roper is "one of the best judge of all livestock breeds in Nova Scotia".

Roper visited many other Artificial Insemination sites in Canada and the United States with Dr. Stan Curtis, W. D. Murray and C. A. Douglas. He also circulated a quarterly newsletter and a monthly report to breeders beginning in 1961.

Mr. Roper has also served as a Director of the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition and is a life-time member of the Nova Scotia Animal Breeders' Association.

POOR

QUALITY

ORIGINAL